

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)
SHELL EGG ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)
MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2013**

**Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture
2800 Gateway Oaks, Room 267
Sacramento, CA 95833**

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Sencer called the SEAC meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Tony Herrera, Program Supervisor, Egg Safety and Quality Management (ESQM)

Committee Members Present:

Michael Sencer, Chairman
Wayne Winslow, Vice Chairman
Steve Mahrt, Petaluma Farms
Gary Foster, Southern California Egg Cooperative
Michael Gemperle, Gemperle Family Farms
David Will, Chino Valley Ranchers
Gary Caseri, Public Member

Committee Members Absent:

Don Brown, Alternate
Richard Jenkins, Alternate
Milton O'Haire, CACASA Representative

Interested Parties:

Debbie Murdock, Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Glenn Hickman, Hickman Eggs
Tim Pelican, Stanislaus County

CDFA:

Dr. Annette Jones, Director
Dr. Doug Hepper, Branch Chief
Tony Herrera, Program Supervisor
Dr. Ken Takeshita, Southern District Supervisor (North Area)
John Ramos, Central District Supervisor
Jenna Celigija, Northern/Coastal District Supervisor

Rosie Martin, Account Clerk II

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 16, 2013**

Chairman Sencer asked the committee to review the October 16, 2013 meeting minutes. Chairman Sencer asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes as submitted.

Motion #1: A motion was made by Mike Gemperle to accept the minutes. Gary Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) **ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES UPDATE**

Gary Caseri gave the committee an update on the administrative penalties matrix and the changes the committee proposed at the last meeting. It was agreed upon:

- Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 27637 will be added back into the matrix, but defining which eggs it applies to.
- Section 27644 was broken out by Sections A and B to better define each section, since either section could be a different violation.
- California Code of Regulations 1356.2 will be added to the matrix, noting that the first violation will be moderate, second will be serious.
- An asterisk will be added to the matrix and “All serious violations will be reviewed by the Department and consultation with the CACASA representative” will be stated.
- A subcommittee was formed to define pasture-raised, cage-free, and free-range so they can be properly regulated. The subcommittee members include David Will, Mike Gemperle, and Ken Takeshita. The subcommittee will report the definitions at the next meeting.

Motion #2: A motion was made by Gary Caseri to accept the administrative penalties as amended. Gary Foster seconded. The motion passed with a 4-2 vote.

(5) **SHELL EGG FOOD SAFETY (SEFS) PILOT AUDIT REPORT**

Dr. Ken Takeshita provided the members with an updated draft of the Shell Egg Food Safety pilot audit he and Jenna Celigija performed in October 2013. The following was discussed:

- When visiting a location to perform a SEFS inspection, verify a FDA inspection was performed within the last three years, and all violations found during FDA inspection have been corrected. If not corrected, follow the Administrative Penalty Matrix for each violation.

- Only perform FDA inspection if none have been done in the last three years.
- Dr. Takeshita provided the committee with a new Administrative Penalty Matrix for review.
- If company cannot provide egg, chick, and/or environmental testing/sampling papers, a non compliance violation will be issued and eggs will be held off sale. CDFA vets would conduct the testing and the company will pay for the expenses.
- At least one day is needed to conduct a full inspection.
- A list of supplies needed to perform the inspection will be provided to farm sites (ladder, measuring tape, etc.)
- A copy of the manual was provided to the committee and any comments and/or changes will be sent to Dr. Takeshita no later than Friday, November 22.
- Dr. Takeshita will be traveling to Michigan next February to provide outreach to out-of-state egg suppliers and shippers.
- The guidance manual will be modified to include “or demonstrated equivalent Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) sampling and testing program approved by the Department,” in the chick papers and pre-depopulation environmental sampling portion.
- A California Egg Quality Assurance Program (CEQAP) inspection will be performed at location (if time permits).
- Definitions for *ingredients, medication, and flock health records* will be discussed at the next CEQAP meeting.
- CEQAP continuing training, including bio-security training, is conducted once a year.
- Sampling methodology for SEFS enclosure inspection has yet to be determined and needs to be discussed and agreed upon.

(6) SEFS COMPLIANT STATEMENT FOR EGG CARTONS

After discussion with the committee, it was confirmed that labels could be added to cartons confirming the eggs are SEFS compliant. According to the regulations, the compliant statement is, “California Shell Egg Food Safety Compliant,” or can be

abbreviated to, "CASEFS Compliant." Any differing verbiage needs to be approved by the Department.

(7) **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Herrera provided the members with an ESQM update. The following was discussed:

- Changing the origin tolerances on checks to meet destination tolerances will still meet laws along with USDA per CDFA's Legal Office. It is up to SEAC if the issue moves forward.
- Auditor interviews will be held shortly.
- A legal referral was sent CDFA's Legal Office to review if the program has the authority to require registrants to sign affidavits in the regulations.
- If companies are claiming SEFS compliance on their egg cartons, they must be compliant with every aspect of California Code of Regulations Section 1350, including the confinement/enclosure area. After discussion with the committee, Mr. Herrera will further discuss with CDFA's Legal Office to see if it can be phased in.
- Ms. Celigija discussed a wirebasket issue with the committee, informing the committee wirebaskets might have been used by other companies without the owner's permission. The owners of the wirebaskets are being asked to send an updated list to CDFA of companies who have permission to use the baskets.
- Legalization passed to increase the number of committee members from ten to twelve beginning January 1, 2014, thus advertisement for those positions will be posted on that date.
- New proposed bylaws will be reviewed at the next meeting.

(8) **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next SEAC meeting will be a conference call on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

(9) **ADJOURN**

Chairman Sencer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion #4: A Motion was made by Wayne Winslow to adjourn the meeting. Michael Gemperle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rosemerry Martin